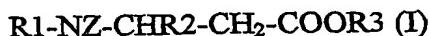


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CLAIMS

1 - Process for producing enantiopure  $\beta$ -amino acid derivatives corresponding to general formula (I)



5 in which

R1 and R2 independently denote organic residues optionally forming a cyclic substituent,

R3 denotes H or an organic residue, and

Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group,

10 comprising a step in which a mixture of enantiomers of a compound corresponding to general formula (II)



in which

R1, R2 and Z are as defined for formula (I), and

15 R4 is an organic residue,

is subjected to hydrolysis in the presence of a lipase.

2 - Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituents R1 and R2 in the compounds of general formula (I) and (II) form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH, said ring preferably comprising from 4 to 8 atoms, more particularly from

20 5 to 7 atoms.

3 - Process according to Claim 2, in which the heterocycle comprises at least one additional hetero atom preferably chosen from N, O and S.

4 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which the substituent Z in the compound of general formula (II) is an amino function-protecting group, in particular an alkoxy carbonyl group, an aryloxy carbonyl group or an aralkoxy carbonyl group.

5 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the substituent R4 in the compound of general formula (II) is a methyl or ethyl group.

6 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, in which the lipase is  
30 *Pseudomonas cepacia* lipase.

7 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, in which the hydrolysis is

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carried out at a temperature of 0 to 50°C and a pH of 6 to 8.

8 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, in which the amount of lipase used is 10 to 100 mg/mmol of compound of formula (II).

- 9 - Process for producing a peptide or a peptide analogue, according to which  
5        (a)      an enantiopure β-amino acid derivative is produced according to the process of any one of Claims 1 to 8;  
              (b)      the enantiopure β-amino acid derivative obtained is used to produce the peptide or the peptide analogue.

10        10 - Enantiopure β-amino acid derivative corresponding to general formula (I)  
R<sub>1</sub>-NZ-CHR<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-COOR<sub>3</sub> (I)  
in which the substituents R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH,  
said heterocycle comprising at least one additional hetero atom,  
R<sub>3</sub> denotes H or an organic residue, and  
Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group.

15        11 - Enantiopure β-amino acid derivative according to Claim 10, in which the heterocycle comprises from 5 to 7 atoms and the additional hetero atom is chosen from N, O and S.

20        12 - Peptide or peptide analogue which can be obtained using, in the process for producing it, an enantiopure β-amino acid derivative according to Claim 10 or  
11.